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COVID-19 outbreak declared at Hyland Crest

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

A COVID-19 outbreak was declared at Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden on Sunday [Jan. 31]. Two essential caregivers have tested positive for the virus. The outbreak is the first for a local long-term care home since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit first posted about the outbreak on their community outbreaks webpage on Jan. 31, and a press release from Haliburton Highlands Health Services was distributed the next morning.

"HHHS has been vigorously working with public health authorities in managing the situation and identifying anyone who may have been exposed to prevent further spread," reads the release.

According to the province's webpage on policy long-term care homes must follow, "a caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident (e.g. supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision-making)." They must be at least 18 years of age, and a maximum of two

see 'WE page 2



It's all downhill from here

Archie Stouffer Elementary School kindergarten student Violet Lowes slides to a stop while tobogganing in deep, soft snow on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at the school in Minden. See more photos on page 8. /DARREN LUM Staff

County to hire consultant to garner feedback and draft shoreline bylaw

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The County of Haliburton will put out a request for proposals "to retain consulting services to lead the development of a draft shoreline preservation bylaw, including a review of the related science, an environmental scan, and public consultation."

That was the motion passed by county council during a special meeting dedicated to the draft shoreline bylaw on Jan. 27. The bylaw, which aims to protect lake health by maintaining natural shorelines, would restrict site alteration and the removal of vegetation within 30 metres of the high-water mark around water bodies. It has proven controversial in the community, particularly among some waterfront property owners, and some members of the local construction and landscaping industries. Councillors have received a deluge of emails regarding the draft bylaw in the past weeks, many of those emails copied by their senders to the newspaper.

An in-person public consultation process that had been planned for last summer was unable to proceed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with council conversations around the draft bylaw resuming in September.

The county had set up a digital public engagement framework that has been active on

see CHANGE page 2



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'We have been preparing for this possibility': HHHS CEO

from page 1

caregivers may be designated per resident at a time. The province's webpage states the person might be, for example, a family member who provides meaningful connection, a privately hired caregiver, paid companions and translators.

In November, Carolyn Plummer, HHHS president and CEO said in a hospital services board meeting that the increase in COVID-19 infections in long-term care homes provincially at that time was concerning, and that HHHS had been maintaining strict vigilance with precautions put in place to keep people as safe as possible.

"We continue to have ongoing concerns about the rising number of long-term care home outbreaks in the province, and the possibility of an outbreak locally," said Plummer in her report last year. "If an outbreak was to occur, our rural location puts us in a vulnerable position due to our limited staff availability and limited external resources upon which to rely for help."

She said then that the outbreaks around the

province had prompted HHHS to "tighten up" visiting policies, and put additional restrictions in place due to the challenge of not having easy access to back-up staffing if needed. At that time, she said essential caregivers were still permitted to enter the home, but were restricted to visits with their loved one inside of the resident's room and not in the common areas.

Essential caregivers are required to be tested weekly at this point, a determination made by public health based on the colour-coded zone of the public health region, an HHHS spokesperson told the *Times*.

"As per directives provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, stringent Infection Prevention and Control [IPAC] measures have been implemented in both HHHS long-term care homes since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic," reads yesterday's HHHS release. "These measures include but are not limited to: ensuring staff work in only one LTC facility; actively screening all staff and essential visitors upon entry to the buildings; conducting regular surveillance testing of all LTC staff

and residents; limiting visitors to only those deemed as 'essential caregivers' who must undergo regular COVID-19 testing; ensuring adequate supply and proper use of personal protective equipment at all times."

Outbreak protocols have also been implemented to minimize potential spread at Hyland Crest, according to the HHHS release. The measures include the immediate testing of all residents and potentially exposed individuals; isolating any residents experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms; limiting admissions, readmissions, discharges or transfers at this time.

"We have been preparing for this possibility, knowing that even with the most rigorous infection prevention and control measures in place, COVID-19 is a very contagious virus," said Plummer. "HHHS remains committed to providing the best care and support possible for residents and their families. We are grateful to our staff and management team for their extraordinary and continued vigilance in the implementation of protective measures and for the guidance and assistance we have received from our local public health unit and

health service provider partners."

HHHS told the *Times* that residents were tested on Jan. 31 and the results are pending.

"Staff are regularly scheduled on Tuesdays for testing – last Tuesday's test yielded no positive results – and they will be tested this Tuesday as per the requirement," a spokesperson told the *Times* on Feb. 1.

HHHS manages two long-term care facilities in Haliburton County: Hyland Crest, and Highland Wood, which is located in Haliburton. Last Friday, 42 residents and 10 staff members at Extendicare in Haliburton received the first dose of the two-dose Moderna vaccine. The health unit was expecting the next delivery of vaccine on Feb. 1, but on Jan. 29 learned that shipment will be delayed until at least Feb. 5. Once more vaccine arrives, the health unit will continue with its plan to vaccinate residents of long-term care homes, including Hyland Crest and Highland Wood.

For further information on COVID-19, visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

Change of direction in creation of bylaw

from page 1

its website, for which a communications firm was retained to create materials, and which has garnered numerous responses.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt has repeatedly said she doesn't believe the communications process the county has had in place was comprehensive enough, and that there was widespread misunderstanding of some of the contents of the draft bylaw. Moffatt repeated those sentiments during the Jan. 27 meeting.

"We need to recalibrate this process," she said. "We're not giving the public what

they're telling us it is they need."

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts and Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy have said they'd like to see the creation of a committee to guide the development of the bylaw, and Kennedy tabled a motion, seconded by Roberts, to postpone any further discussion regarding the draft bylaw until such a committee was struck.

"There are things in here that are very ambiguous ..." Kennedy said of the contents of the draft bylaw. "I'm throwing my hands up, I need some help on this. I'm not a planner, I'm not a fish biologist, I'm not a lawyer. I'm trying to make the best decisions and rec-

ommendations I can. I don't feel I have the tools."

Roberts said she's been approached by a number of people with relevant professional backgrounds expressing interest in sitting on some kind of committee to guide the creation of the bylaw.

As she had earlier in the month, Moffatt reiterated her opposition to that concept.

"I appreciate that we absolutely need to clarify this process," she said. "I absolutely do not support a committee of the public because I believe that we are so far down the vitriolic blame game that it would be impossible to adequately or usefully represent all

interested parties without making it even worse, and in comparison, I think that a recalibration of a more robust and inclusive consultation process would do just as much."

"Unless we went to RFP, I said that last time, too," Moffatt continued. "If we're going to bring in outside persons to take this over, I would only support it being an RFP."

That is ultimately the direction council took, with Kennedy rescinding his motion, and councillors voting to issue an RFP for a consultant. The change in process means that a virtual public meeting that had been scheduled for late February will be postponed.

Highlands Summer Festival cancels 2021 season

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After being forced to cancel its 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers of the Highlands Summer Festival [HSF] have made the "difficult decision" to shutter the 2021 summer theatre season.

In a release to media over the weekend, HSF president Brian Kipping said the cancellation comes amid growing uncertainty about the COVID-19 restrictions that could still be in place by the time July and August roll around.

"It is with reluctance that we make this announcement," Kipping said. "It is not where we wanted to be following last season's cancellation. Our first concern, however, is for the safety of our patrons and staff."

Patrons who purchased season tickets ahead of the 2020 season and didn't request a refund will have their tickets honoured for the 2022 season, Kipping confirmed.

"We will respect that commitment when we are finally allowed to step back into the theatre and onto the stage," he said.

While the traditional theatre season will not go ahead, that does not mean HSF will be inactive over the coming months. Artistic director Scot Denton said the group was "ex-

ploring the possibility" of hosting its early stages program. Early stages is a four-week intensive theatre education initiative designed for young people aged ten to 14.

"The participants learn about all the facets involved in a theatrical production," Denton said.

There are also tentative plans to follow in the footsteps of other Ontario-based theatre groups and take their shows online.

"Following on the heels of our very popular 'Memories' video, we have a number of others in the works," Denton noted. "I can't show my hand just yet, but keep an eye on our website for new presentations."

Kipping meanwhile wanted to take a moment to thank those who continued to support HSF in 2020. While he didn't disclose a dollar amount, the HSF president said a number of donations received by members of the community helped to keep the theatre group afloat through what was a difficult year.

"Even though there have been no performances, we have ongoing expenses and these donations help to keep the Highlands Summer Festival alive and ready to go when conditions allow," Kipping said. "Thank you for your support."

For more information, visit www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

Draft tax levy dips below 3 per cent

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Minden Hills council and staff continue to whittle away at the township's 2021 budget, and had a third round of budget discussions during a Jan. 28 meeting.

While the direction from council during its second round of budget discussions had been for staff to get the tax levy increase for the year down to 3.65 per cent, "We managed to get it below that," finance director Lorrie Blanchard said, explaining the levy increase in the third draft budget was 2.94 per cent.

That would mean the tax rate increase itself would be 2.27 per cent, which for a residential property would mean an increase from \$3.73 to \$3.81 per every \$1,000 of assessment.

Council directed that some new staffing

positions that had been included in the draft budget be removed, and will receive a fourth draft budget at a later meeting.

The budget contains a substantial amount of borrowing – the third draft budget included some \$7.4 million in public works projects that staff were recommending be funded through debenture.

"I'll eat my shirt if there isn't 100 other rural municipalities that are in the exact same position we are," said Mayor Brent Devolin with regard to the financial strain caused by aging infrastructure.

Borrowing substantial amounts to pay for projects is uncommon for the township, and Councillor Pam Sayne has repeatedly expressed concern about funding through debenture.

"I'm very concerned we're almost using that debenture as through it's a credit card," Sayne said.



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Township hopes for staggered opening of facility

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Township of Minden Hills is hoping for a gradual opening of its new recreation complex that could see members of the public using the gymnasium portion of the building, in accordance with public health and safety protocols, by late winter or early spring.

The \$13-million facility, which includes an NHL-sized ice rink, six change rooms, office space for community services staff, a multipurpose gym, fitness room and elevated walking track – is largely complete, but at this time remains closed to the public during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"Under the current provincial emergency orders the facility must remain closed to the public at this time," reads a press release issued by the township last week. "However, once allowable, the municipality will reassess opening dates and targets, and based on where our public health region falls within the province of Ontario's COVID-19 response framework, the facility will begin to operationalize in accordance with those guidelines. It is the municipality's intention, to first offer regulated access to the gym areas of the facility for the late winter/early spring season, when possible."

No ice will be installed in the arena for the remainder of this ice season, the plan being to install ice for the 2021/22 ice season in August.

During a budget meeting last month, some members of council said they didn't foresee the facility opening before June.

“
The gradual reopening of our community centre will see more programs and services being restored when it is safe to do so.
”

— CRAIG BELFRY

If a staggered opening becomes possible, it will be with COVID-19 safety protocols in place. For pickleball, there will be limited pre-registered court times; a limit of four players on each court at a time; and the court time will be allotted in one-hour blocks, with a mandatory 20 minutes between each session. No spectators will be permitted, and face masks must be worn inside except when playing. Players will have to bring their own equipment.

For the use of the walking track, pre-registration will be required and there will be a limit of 10 walkers at a time. The track will be booked in one-hour time slots, masks must be worn except while exercising, and social distancing will have to be adhered to.

"Access to the building will be a little different, but these protocols in place will help keep visitors and employees healthy and safe," community services Craig Belfry said in the release. "The gradual reopening of our community centre will see more programs and services being restored when it is safe to do so."

Minden Pride urges support of Bill C-6

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The organizers of Minden Pride are calling on the community to support Bill C-6, which would outlaw conversion therapy.

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale is holding a constituency referendum regarding his support of the bill. That is, Schmale is asking constituents to vote on the issue, and will then cast his vote in the House of Commons based on those results.

In a mail-out to constituents from the MP's office, conversion therapy is defined as "practices, treatment or services designed to change an individual's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identify to cisgender or to reduce non-heterosexual sexual attraction or sexual behaviour."

"Let me be clear that it is my belief that conversion therapy is wrong," Schmale writes in that correspondence. "... In the case of this bill, I will honour the results of the referendum but with one exception. That voluntary conversations between individuals and their teachers, school counsellors, pastoral counsellors, faith leaders, doctors, mental health professionals, friends and family members are not criminalized and the bill is amended to clarify that position."

"Minden Pride is speaking directly to MP Schmale and will strongly advocate that he vote yes," a press release from the organizers of Minden Pride reads. "This is critical to upholding all Canadians' human rights."

Each registered voter in each household may vote once, and those names will be reviewed against the Elections Canada voters' list.

For more information on the referendum, visit <https://jamieschmale.ca/billc-6>



Sand for Minden residents

Winter sand is available for Minden Hills residents at the Minden Curling Club parking lot, located at 50 Prentice Street. The township restricts the use of the sand for personal use only and no more than one five gallon container may be taken per vehicle. The sand is not to be used by contractors, commercial businesses, non-Minden Hills residents, on private roads or by other government agencies./DARREN LUM Staff

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

February 11 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session..

MASKS AT WASTE FACILITIES

For your health, and the health of other site users, please wear a mask at Minden Hills waste sites when outside your vehicle. Only attend a site if absolutely necessary

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

Bottled water is 2,000 times more energy intensive to produce than tap water. Switch to tap water or access the public tap at the Old Minden Fire Hall.

SNOW REMOVAL

Pushing snow across roads and streets is not only a safety hazard; it is also against the law. The Ontario Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

If a grease fire starts in your kitchen, don't panic, and [don't use water](#). Instead, smother the flames with a heavy lid or baking sheet, or use baking soda or salt to put out the flames. Be sure to turn off the power to the stove or fryer to prevent the fire from growing.

It only takes a few measures to prevent a grease fire.

- Do not leave your cooking unattended.
- Do not fry frozen food in oil.
- Do not rush deep frying, the oil needs to heat slowly.
- Keep flammable items like oven mitts, towels, and curtains away from the cooking area.
- Store heavy lids and cookie sheets near the stove to use in case of a grease fire.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Custodial Labourer
We are looking for a Custodial Labourer to join our team. This is a full time, union position, 40 hrs/week, variable shifts. Rate of pay is \$23.70, pending review. Application deadline is Feb. 12, 2021 by 12:00 noon. Visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca for full posting details and to view the job description.

Baby Boesveld returns home to Minden

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Baby Hunter is home. The first baby to be born in 2021 in Haliburton County had quite the start to life after he was born at home in Minden on Jan. 8 to parents Kate-lynn and Scott Boesveld, with support from the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft. That went well, but soon after his birth, he was struggling to eat, pass stool and began showing increasing signs of discomfort, leading to a stay at McMaster Children's Hospital and a diagnosis of Hirschsprung's disease.

Scott's family has a genetic history of Hirschsprung's disease, a disorder in which nerve cells in the intestines called ganglions are absent from part of the bowels at birth, causing muscles an inability to pass stool through the intestines, which can become blocked. During an ultrasound done around the 18-week mark, though Hunter's bowels could be seen, it wasn't possible to rule out Hirschsprung's as the ganglions couldn't be seen at that time.

After birth, Kate-lynn said Hunter began gagging on milk, was vomiting and was sleeping more than would be expected of a newborn. Following the guidance of the midwives, and using their own intuition, Kate-lynn and Scott made plans for their daughter with family, and headed to the emergency room at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton – where Scott's brothers had been treated for Hirschsprung's disease as children (Scott was not born with Hirschsprung's

disease). Kate-lynn said the drive was worrisome, not knowing if Hunter would be sick or feel uncomfortable in that time, so she rode in the backseat next to him.

"Thankfully, he slept the whole way," she said.

At the hospital, Hunter was admitted quickly, and underwent tests including x-rays and a biopsy. Procedures to empty his stomach of bile began to help relieve his symptoms, which included a distended stomach. He also, at just a few days old, had to undergo a COVID-19 test due to having a symptom of vomiting.

"He was put through the ringer, but he just laid there," said Kate-lynn. "The only time he would cry was when he had sticky tape put on his skin and pulled off. He honestly did so amazing through it all."

Due to his discomfort, nurses began doing bowel irrigations every six hours, until Kate-lynn and Scott became comfortable doing it themselves.

"Basically because I wanted to go home so bad, I just took over," said Kate-lynn, laughing.

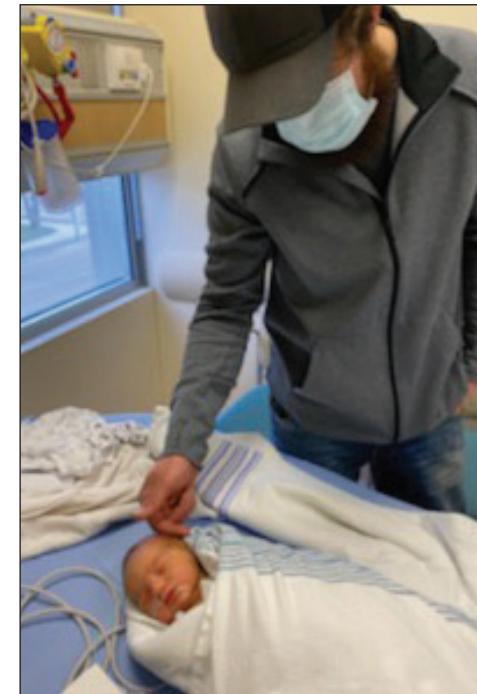
Hunter was diagnosed with Hirschsprung's disease after results from the biopsy showed an absence of ganglion cells. He'll need surgery in the near future – called a pull-through procedure – to remove part of the intestine and pull through a healthy part so that it functions properly.

"It's supposed to correct it and I'm glad he won't remember any of it," said Kate-lynn. "They don't want to promise us anything because of [uncertainty during the pandemic], but as long as his weight increases, they said



Not long after Hunter Boesveld was born, Haliburton County's first baby of the year was taken to the hospital for testing, which confirmed he has Hirschsprung's disease. "He is doing really well and is eating and sleeping a lot," posted his parents in an update on social media.

/Submitted photo



around March would be best. I'm trying to just get his weight up. They want him big and strong and healthy basically before the surgery so he's able to, you know, fight it and get through it. Plus his body is so little right now, I can't imagine them doing surgery on a tiny little thing."

Within days, Hunter began nursing, and then was off the IV, sleeping and eating on a normal schedule.

"It gives you quite an awareness for those sorts of things, I didn't really take it into consideration until it's actually happened to us and the struggles that we could deal with," said Kate-lynn. "We can go places, but we have to be back for the irrigation, so we just have to plan our life a little bit differently."

With Kate-lynn and Scott performing irrigations scheduled every six hours, they were able to be released from the hospital, where they appreciated the support but said a shared room where nurses were regularly in to check vitals, and kids were waking up in pain, made it difficult to rest.

"I basically prayed for each of those children," said Kate-lynn. "It made me feel blessed ... It just put you into someone else's shoes for a little bit. It was very stressful being in a hospital setting, sleeping in a hard rock chair for days. I'm trying to heal [post-birth], trying to process everything, you're not allowed to have visits ... We had a ton of people praying for us, and we definitely felt that prayer at that time. That's what got me through. But by Thursday, I had to get out of there, and I told the nurses that, I said, 'can you put a good word in for me?' I've tried to do these irrigations. I think I got nine hours of sleep in that week, that adds up. And I thought, if I have one more night like that, I'm going to have a meltdown."

Though her sleep continues to be "all over the place," Kate-lynn said she is feeling better.

"I'm really trying to take care of myself, and make sure I'm able to be there for my daughter and Hunter," said Kate-lynn. "I'm great, and Hunter acts like a [typical] baby, he smiles, he's doing all the baby things, so I'm really happy, because I'm always on edge now. I don't want something to turn, and he can get sick very quickly. I'm just basking in the

cuddles and nursing and all the [typical] baby things I can do right now."

Kate-lynn said the support from her mother-in-law, in particular, has been invaluable.

"She went through it all, with two of [her five kids]," said Kate-lynn. "She honestly has been amazing through it all. We talked to the surgeon and he said, listen to any of the advice that she has because she did it for so long. It's been comforting to know that she has the knowledge, and she's so helpful, with any questions we have. It's been very nice to know someone close who has experienced it."

Surgeries were different back then, and people can be affected differently by Hirschsprung's disease – one brother-in-law had more than 20 surgeries before he was four years old. Even after surgery, Hunter will need to be mindful of what he eats, and could have a lowered immune system, but will otherwise be able to live independently.

Though the Boesveld family only recently purchased and moved to Ray's Place on Hwy 121 in Minden, a community of off-road enthusiasts quickly raised funds online and offline to help support the family with the costs incurred during Hunter's current hospital stays, and for future medical trips.

"Oh my goodness, it's unbelievable, I had tears in my eyes, just seeing the amount of support," Kate-lynn told the *Times*. "It's just really awesome to have that support and love from everybody, it's so great. It shocked me completely."

To help with the costs of travelling back and forth to McMaster Children's Hospital, a GoFundMe has been set up for their family and is available at <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/baby-hunter-needs-our-help>.

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MH to maintain Murdoch Road lake access

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Minden Hills councillors have agreed the township will maintain a long-standing public access to Gull Lake at the end of Murdoch Road, improving signage at the location as well as accessibility to the site.

Council received a report regarding conflicts at the location during a Feb. 1 online meeting. As that report indicated, following conflicts between users of the public access and surrounding private property owners in 2018 and 2019, a survey of the area was conducted. That survey determined that the location that had been traditionally used to access the lake was actually on private property slightly east of the township-owned land.

"That access has been fenced off," chief administrative officer Trisha McKibbin told councillors, adding that the township has undertaken no work to improve the site it owns, which includes a steep hill and some trees. Some trees have been removed by members of the public at the township-owned site, and a shed that was placed on the public property by a private property owner has been removed. The township has received correspondence from abutting property owners asking that the public access be permanently closed, and recent letters to the editor said concrete barricades had been placed at the site by township staff. The site is used to launch and access ice huts during the winter.

Councillor Bob Carter said he'd like to see a response from the township's insurance provider regarding municipality, but saw no reason the township should be closing the public access. "I see this as very similar to a lot of other accesses across the municipality," Carter said.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell, who chaired the Feb. 1 meeting in the absence of Mayor Brent Devolin, agreed, noting there are other public access spots with steep declines into the water, and that people manage to traverse them.

"We all do it and have for many years," Schell said.

The letter from the abutting property owners noted they've installed a security camera and the letter indicated that, in addition to footage of trespassing, they had footage of people stumbling on the hill.

"I'm sure that happens at a lot of access routes," said Councillor Jean Neville, who agreed there was no reason for the township to close the access.

"It must be necessary at this point on the lake," Neville said, noting that it is well-used. "I don't see how it is different from the majority of them, that have been historically used."

"This has been a long-standing issue, so what we're seeing is a lot of conflict," said Councillor Pam Sayne, whose ward includes Gull Lake. "Private property owners had their shed

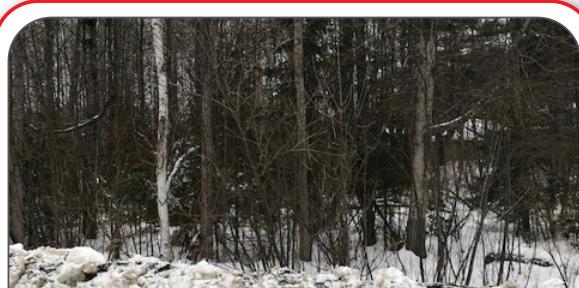
on our public land." Sayne said she'd like to see better signage at the site with regard to expectations for use, and hoped there could be a more respectful relationship between members of the public using the site and abutting property owners.

"That access to Gull Lake has been there for decades," said Schell, agreeing there was no reason to close it. Schell added that members of the public should not be cutting down trees on public property. "We would not tolerate people going down to Rotary Park and cutting down trees," she said, adding it would be up to the township to complete that work.

A staff report regarding year-round signage and maintenance options for the property will come back to council.

New Cases Reported Today											
	0 Haliburton	1 KawarthaLakes	1 Northumberland								
Total Confirmed Cases to Date *											
	50 Haliburton (HAL)	453 Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	371 Northumberland (NTH)	874 HKPRDHU							
Note: *Total cases by County and for the Health Unit overall may increase or decrease from previously reported counts as cases may be reassigned to or from the HKPRDHU based on case investigation details and routine data cleaning.											
COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County *											
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases				
Haliburton	2	48	15	0	2	0	0				
Kawartha Lakes	45	378	69	3	24	30	13				
Northumberland	9	353	31	0	8	9	0				
COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU											
All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases				
HKPRDHU	56	779	122 **	3	34	39	13				

On Feb. 2, no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Haliburton County. Two cases were listed as being not resolved, and there were 15 current high-risk contacts. For more information visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca/>. Screenshot from HKPRDHU website



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On conversion therapy

LAST WEEK, residents of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock received in the mail paperwork for a constituency referendum by MP Jamie Schmale.

Schmale has held a few of these referendums in the past, where he asks constituents to vote in order to inform his vote. Past ones have involved the issue of medically assisted death.

The issue at hand this time around is much less controversial, or at least it should be. There should be no ambiguity about which way to vote. The issue at hand this time is Bill C-6, which would criminalize “conversion therapy,” and Schmale should vote in support of the bill.

For anyone unaware, conversion therapy, as correspondence from Schmale’s office points out, is defined as, “practices, treatment or services designed to change an individual’s sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender or to reduce non-heterosexual sexual attraction or sexual behaviour.”

To put it more bluntly, conversion therapy is about trying to force gay people to become straight. It’s an archaic and homophobic practice that should go the way of coal plants. Let’s be very clear – trying to change or “correct” someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity is not therapy; it’s mental and emotional abuse. It’s abuse, and it should be outlawed.

As a press release from Minden

Pride reads, “This is critical to upholding all Canadians’ human rights.”

Pride celebrations have become a part of mainstream culture in many countries, but it’s important to remember that Pride events, while often manifesting in fun street parties, are about much more than fun street parties. They are a movement born out of systemic oppression and in response to homophobic violence. The modern Pride movement was born out of the Stonewall riots in New York City in 1969, members of the LGBTQ+ community fighting back against police after years of violent raids. It was only a couple of years earlier, in 1967, that homosexuality became legal in

Canada through an amendment to the criminal code. Before that, homosexuality was illegal in this country. There are still countries in the world where that is the case, where homosexuality is punishable by death, and where gay people are publicly flogged and stoned.

It’s all connected. While stoning and flogging may not happen here, conversion therapy comes from the same philosophical place – a belief that homosexuality is wrong, and needs to be eradicated.

Schmale should vote yes to C-6 and if he doesn’t, then frankly he should never, ever show up at a Minden Pride flag-raising photo op ever again and expect to have his picture taken.

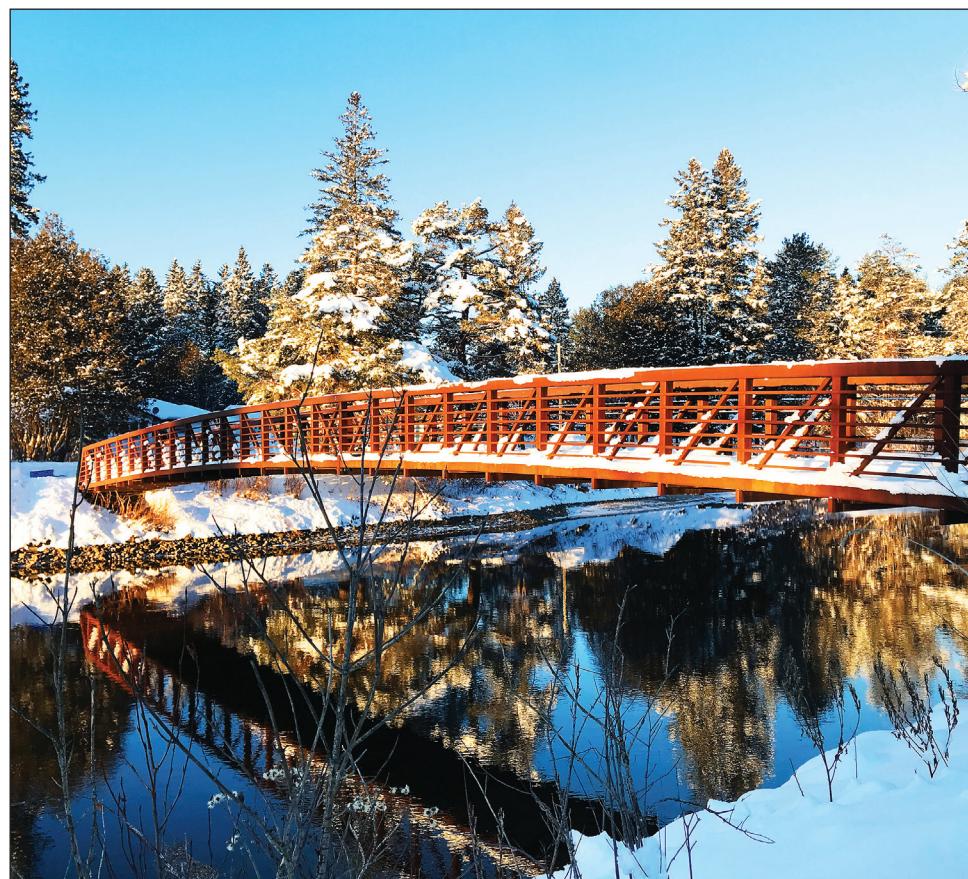
He can also consider this column my vote on the matter.



CHAD INGRAM
Editor

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor



The Loggers’ Crossing is reflected in the Gull River close to dusk in Minden.
/DARREN LUM Staff

Investments

THE OTHER day Jenn and I were listening to the cable news, when they did a segment about young people who got rich flipping up shares of a company that sells games. As you might have guessed, the minute they started talking about the complexities of all those transactions, I stopped paying attention.

Yet, as I was to soon discover, this news piece would soon benefit me as an outdoorsman.

You see, shortly after the segment was over, Jenn said that it was too bad we did not pay attention to these types of investments.

“What do you mean?” I asked.

Her exact response was, “Well, maybe we should do some research and invest in a few stocks.”

That provided me the opportunity I had been waiting a long time for.

“Wait here,” I said.

What followed was a procession from my gun cabinet to the living room where Jenn was sitting, now completely slack jawed.

Then, I uncased the new shotgun, centre-fire rifle and semi-automatic .22 that I had carried from the gun case, after slipping them into the house in 2020.

Before she could say a word, I drew her attention to the butt ends of each of the firearms and said, “I invested in these stocks last year – the barrels, receivers, magazines and triggers were also included. Their value has remained consistent so far, but I expect it to rise substantially the minute the QAnon kooks declare an impending zombie apocalypse...”

Before she could say another word, I added, “Don’t worry. That’s just a small part of our diverse portfolio! I have been playing in the stock market for years.”



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

As you might expect, she was dumbfounded – presumably, by my financial acumen.

I’m not sure why this was the case. Like most outdoorsmen, I speculate about buying guns all the time. This is, after all, a very sound financial strategy, according to the guys who write for the gun magazines and the friendly guys at the gun store.

That, more than anything, is why savvy people like me dabble in the market.

The good investment part is not a lie either. Some firearms do greatly appreciate in value, especially if they are unique and rarely used. The problem is, we firearms owners are also a sentimental bunch, so those are the ones we hate to part with.

I’m not going to brag about my stock portfolio. But I will say two things: first it is a growing portfolio. And, second, I have never actually sold a firearm. Sure, I’ve traded a couple, but never actually sold any.

That’s because, as I said, I’m waiting for something to really jumpstart their market value. Then, when firearms prices rise

substantially, I will cautiously sell one or two and invest that money in a more valuable one – that is good for moose and bear.

In the meantime, I will keep diversifying my portfolio and wait for the day when the gun market booms.

Until that time, all is not lost.

Take for example my favourite deer rifle, a sweet little Browning A-bolt in .243. I bought it years ago for a very good price and though the model has appreciated modestly in price, I have not once considered selling it.

Why? Well, as an investor, you also have to consider that a rifle brings annual dividends.

Heck, every year, if all goes well, rifles like that will bring in a buck or two.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Spiritualism or religion

THE DIFFERENCES between being religious and being spiritual were never more evident than what's been happening at Trinity Bible Chapel in the Kitchener-Waterloo region.

The church has held three inside Sunday services in defiance of COVID-19, Ontario law and a court order. Its leaders say that banning large inside gatherings during the pandemic is against the right to practice religion. Attending church is an essential service, they say.

So, protecting the right to attend church is more important than protecting the health of your fellow citizens. Which is fine if the Trinity Bible Chapel church-goers, most of them unmasked and not socially distanced in three recent indoors services, stayed inside for the next six months instead of going out into the community, heightening the risk of spreading COVID-19.

The church asserts on its website that restrictions on religious gatherings during a pandemic are an infringement of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Pastor Jacob Reaume has said people fear COVID-19 because they don't know "the love of Christ" who already has defeated death,

"The worst thing that can happen to me is that I die and go to heaven," the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* reported him telling an outdoor drive-in service this past Sunday.

Supporting Trinity Chapel is maverick politician Randy Hillier, a civil disobedience advocate banished from the Ontario Progressive Conservative caucus. He attended a Jan. 24 Trinity Bible Chapel service and proudly Tweeted about it.

He posted a photo showing dozens of unmasked people in the pews and commented that it was "a wonderful service this morning in Waterloo. It was a top shelf day."

The selfishness of the Trinity Bible Chapel folks is more sad and more alarming to me because of a special anniversary this week.

This week marks the 78th anniversary of The Four Chaplains who went down with the U.S. troop ship Dorchester, torpedoed and sank by the German navy off Newfoundland, Feb. 3, 1943.

The chaplains, a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, a Methodist minister and a Dutch Reformed minister, gave their life jackets to soldiers who did not have them, then joined arms, prayed and sang hymns as the ship sank.

Their deaths were not acts of religion. They were acts of spiritualism.

Religion is belief and worship. Basic religion is about looking after yourself faithfully to gain God's reward. Spiritualism is about looking after others.

Spiritualism is meaningful because its first priority is loving and caring about other people, all living things and the planet itself. It does not require being inside a religious building to understand and practice it.

The first people of North America understood this long before the rest of us arrived. The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) creation story exemplifies the giving nature of spiritualism.

It tells of people who lived in the sky above the clouds because there was no earth below, just water. A hole appeared in the clouds and a young lady named Sky Woman fell through it, clutching a handful of seeds as she plunged downward.

Her fall was cushioned by water animals, who helped her onto the back of a giant turtle. Then a muskrat dived to the ocean floor and returned with a handful of mud, which Sky Woman spread on the turtle's back and saw it grow into our planet.

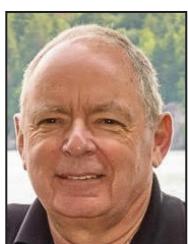
The muskrat gave its life getting that handful of mud. Its dive to the ocean floor was so deep that when it returned to the surface, it tossed up the mud then, exhausted and out of oxygen, sank and drowned.

Sky Woman spread her seeds across the mud, then offered the fruits of her plantings to all creatures.

Both the Iroquois story of Sky Woman, and the heroism of The Four Chaplains are about giving and looking after each other. They are stories that should be told at Trinity Bible Chapel, and other churches serving extreme right wing religious groups.

How these people can defy Ontario law and pooh-pooh the health of their fellow beings is beyond my comprehension. Especially this week, the anniversary of The Four Chaplains.

And, especially because one of those chaplains – the Dutch Reformed minister – was the Rev. Clark Poling, my dad's distant cousin, who was the last of a line of seven unbroken generations of seven Poling evangelical ministers.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

Letters to the editor

PowerPoint Bylaw

To the Editor,

Editor's note: Since this letter was received, Haliburton County council has voted to hire a consultant to draft a new shoreline protection bylaw.

In the Jan. 20 paper, Haliburton County Warden, Liz Danielsen lamented the spread of misinformation concerning the proposed shoreline bylaw. Danielsen points to the Haliburton County Home Builders Association's estimate of \$750,000 to enforce the proposed bylaw. However all the fact-checking seems to be somewhat one sided. For years the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations (CHA) has been telling a story of the impact of algae blooms with their favourite target being Three Mile Lake in Muskoka who indeed have an issue with blooms. The presentation to county council on March 27, 2019 has many references to Three Mile Lake. So is this one of those scenarios that if you tell a story frequently enough it becomes the truth? It would appear so. It has been suggested to my members of county council to have a look, that apparently has not happened. Thus we have a bylaw proposal that is essentially based on a PowerPoint presentation.

Three Mile Lake Association is a very active group, is a "Love Your Lakes" partner and actively looks for ways to safeguard its environment and members. TML had their first bloom in the fall of 2005 and they have reappeared a number of times since then, and other lakes in Muskoka have had issues as well. The common trait seems to be climate change. Very warm and windless late summers early fall seem to be the contributing factor. TML area was heavily logged in the late 1800s early 1900s. It was and still is prime agricultural land. A number of studies have been done on the lake with comparisons to another area lake that has multiple blooms and a similar history. That lake is Dickson Lake in Algonquin Park and it has no structures built on its shores. In 2006/07 a study was conducted by Dr. Patterson from the Dorset MOE. There was a slide presentation made but no follow up. The

MOE wrote a 200-page report on what was happening to those lakes but have refused to release it. This despite requests by TML to all levels of governments for the data. TML have enlisted the help of Mr. John Klinck, Chair of The District of Muskoka. Mr. Klinck has written to the Ministry of Environment requesting the release of information but to date has not received a response. Bureaucracy.

The CHA has presented information about the value of property in these areas where blooms are an issue. Loss of taxation would put most politicians into a panic. TML according to CHA's information has property dropping in value anywhere between 30 and 50 per cent. In fact it dropped so low, according to the CHA, it impacted the mill rate for Muskoka. TML certainly has not seen reduction in their property taxes, never heard the mill rate story. According to a study done by Lakelands Real Estate Board their property values have not declined. It would appear that no one from Haliburton County thought to contact the District of Muskoka to determine if this is true or not.

There is no question that collectively we need to look for solutions to environmental problems but essentially expropriating private property is simply wrong. Personally I do not want to be under the thumb of some civil servant watching over every move. There are bylaws in place now that are not enforced to help with the situation. Both the townships and county are complicit in many of these issues. I would suggest that someone who has not just spent days on the phone with lawyers write this proposed bylaw, plain English would be nice to have. I suspect the county knows there are going to be multiple legal challenges to this if passed and that perhaps is the reason for the way it is written.

People are always willing to help, like you we care about the environment, but this is not the direction to take.

Murray Adam
Community Action Group
Our Grandchildren Matter Too

HCPL's Jr Book of the Month - February



Once upon a time there was a tiny kingdom called Cornucopia, as rich in happiness as it was in gold, and famous for its food. From the delicate cream cheeses of Kurdsburg to the Hopes-of-Heaven pastries of Chouxville, each was so delicious that people wept with joy as they ate them.

But legend tells of a fearsome creature living far to the north in the Marshlands ... the Ickabog. Some say it breathes fire, spits poison, and carries off wayward sheep and children alike. Some say it's just a myth...

And when that myth takes on a life of its own, two children – best friends Bert and Daisy – embark on a great adventure to untangle the truth and find out where the real monster lies, bringing hope and happiness to Cornucopia once more.

Featuring full-colour illustrations by young artists from all over the world, this book is sure to delight. Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today.



Winter work for fun

Archie Stouffer Elementary School kindergarten student Jackson Little works to flatten the soft snow while on his crazy carpet on Wednesday, Jan. 27 in Minden. There were 29 kindergarten students, who worked with the poor tobogganing conditions and worked to pack down the soft snow, taking turns sliding on crazy carpets (only those with a helmet), rolling, or whatever they could do to get down the hill. Despite the lack of speed, the children didn't complain. /DARREN LUM Staff



Kindergarten students walk to the hill for winter fun.

P.P.S.

TO BE EFFECTIVE exercise needs to be done regularly. In order to establish a regular habit of exercising it needs to be simple. By simple I mean easy and by easy I mean convenient. For the sake of this article let's differentiate between exercise and activities. Exercise is what we do to keep ourselves in shape to do the activities we enjoy like skiing, snowshoeing, cycling, running, walking, swimming, etc. All activities contribute to our fitness level but there is a base level that is required in order for us to keep doing the activities we love.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

The P.P.S. is a great way to establish and maintain overall body strength. Push-ups, planks, and the superman. It is as simple as that. Doing these exercises on a daily basis hits every muscle group in your body. This is what you do:

Warm-up with some walking on the spot. Swing your arms to get your whole body into it. A minute of this would be great. Get down to the floor, go to a wall or counter top and do some push-ups.

Next is the plank. Straight arm or from your elbows really doesn't matter. If you're at the wall, move your feet far enough back so you can feel your abdominal muscles engage. Hold the position for five to 30 seconds and repeat as often as you're comfortable.

Lastly is the superman. Lying on your belly engage your mid section and glutes and then lift an opposite arm and leg

(or you can lift all four appendages together) for one rep. Repeat on the other side. Do as many reps as you are comfortable doing. This exercise can be done at the wall as well. Get into the straight arm plank position and then lift one arm and the opposite leg at the same time.

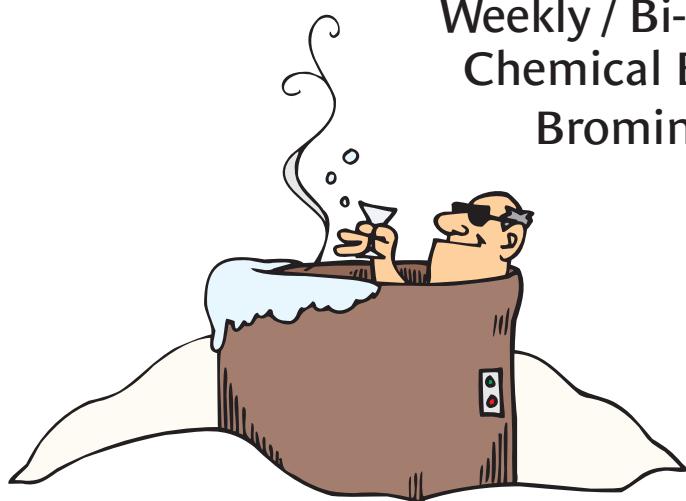
Doing the P.P.S. a few times a day will build strength and stability. It doesn't matter your fitness level. I've been doing push-ups for years and they never seem to get easier. To keep things challenging increase the number of reps that you're doing. If you listen to your body it will tell you when enough is enough.

For an added challenge add in some squats either before you do the push-ups or at the end. What the heck you're already doing three exercises, what's one more?

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

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Snowy adventure beckons

Two friends and their dogs snowshoe through a field on private property on Sunday, Jan. 24 in Minden. Even with provincial lockdown measures Highlands residents are taking advantage of the winter conditions to get outside and exercise. /DARREN LUM Staff

County donates \$25K to assist students with internet costs

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The County of Haliburton will contribute \$25,000 to Point in Time's campaign to assist students in the county with internet costs in the online learning environment created by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

During a Jan. 13 online meeting, county councillors received a presentation from the social services agency, explaining that some 150 students in the county were unable to attend school virtually. They heard how the data requirements of Google Meet, the platform by which online takes place, can quickly consume a family's data package for the month.

The cost to provide one family with sufficient internet for a month is about \$100, so with 150 families, that cost is \$15,000 per month, or about \$180,000 a year, Point in Time executive director Marg Cox told council. As part of its presentation, the agency asked the county to consider making a contribution.

While it's unusual for the county to make donations, during a Jan. 27 council meeting, councillors decided the county would contribute \$25,000 for the cause.

"This is definitely outside of our normal scope of considerations, but it's obviously a big enough concern that most of us felt we should do something," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen.

"I think it's very important that whatever direction we choose, that we include in the resolution a bit of a position statement," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, "because that is outside of our normal scope of business, that the resolution include a

comment or statement that we believe that education for youth in our community is a top priority during the pandemic. We have already, last year, been asked by various groups, including local businesses who were struggling look for financial incentives or opportunities. And we didn't want to weigh into that, because you open the floodgates, and as much as you'd like to give everything to everyone, we can't. That the donation was outside the scope of the county's usual business was included in the resolution.

Dysart et al Mayor Pat Kennedy suggested a contribution of \$25,000.

"It would be five months, based on their hybrid model, and that would take it through the school year," Kennedy said.

Other members of council agreed with that figure.

"This is symbolic and a show of support and something that's not normal and clearly not our responsibility," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, "but we're in this as a community."

"If we're stewards of Haliburton County, which I believe we are, then the stewardship of our future is in our youth," said Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Assisted by the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations in promotion, as of Feb. 1, the campaign had raised more than \$86,000.

Along with \$25,000 from the county, Kinark Child and Family Services had contributed \$30,000, the City of Kawartha Lakes (the social services provider for the county) \$15,000, the Haliburton County Development Corporation, \$1,000 from the Lake Kashagawigamog Association along with contributions from the Lions Club and private donations through a GoFundMe campaign.



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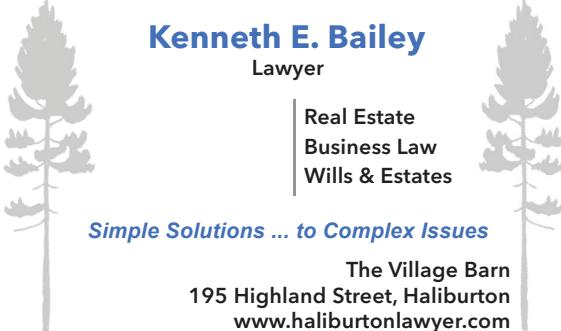


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'If someone is saying there's no coronavirus in Haliburton, it's not accurate'

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held virtually Jan. 27.

Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, noted that Haliburton County is not unaffected by COVID-19 – at the time of the press conference, there were five current cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County being confirmed by the health unit, more than a dozen high-risk contacts, and the first hospitalization since one reported last April.

"So the numbers are small but I think the issue I'm trying to get across is that coronavirus is everywhere," he told media. "There's no part of our area that is unaffected, and there's no part of our area in which you can throw precautions to the wind. It's basically a fact of life, it's something we're living with now. If someone is saying there's no coronavirus in Haliburton, it's not accurate."

Gemmill said the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, which covers the regions of Haliburton County, Northumberland County and City of Kawartha Lakes, has been fortunate to see fewer numbers than hotspots in the province. At press time, the region had seen a total of 872 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus since the pandemic was declared last March.

"Luckily, with a smaller population and a less densely concentrated population, that's an advantage, because those things I just mentioned are what can cause the amplification, the high intensity of people with other people, facilitates the spread of the virus," said Gemmill. "Being more of a rural area, all through HKPR, that actually helps - that's why we're not in the same situation as the GTA, Windsor, Ottawa, and so on. My point is, the virus is still present everywhere and it can have significant complications like hospitalizations."

Stay-at-home order in place at secondary residences, too

As was mentioned in the previous week's board of health meeting, Gemmill reiterated his ask of people spending time at secondary residences in Haliburton County, and elsewhere in the HKPR region, to follow the stay-at-home orders in place.

"One of the things I want to say about Haliburton, a number of people have mentioned this to me so I thought it was important to mention it to you as well, we know that a lot of people in other areas are going to their recreational properties in the county, and there's actually nothing in place to stop

people from doing so, but I just want to take this opportunity to say, if people are doing this - we're talking about people whose recreational or secondary residence is in HKPR, generally, or maybe in Haliburton specifically - please if you're going to do this, do it the right way," said Gemmill. "And that means, getting your supplies before you go, driving in your car, stay in your car, go straight to your property, and then when you get there, remember there is a stay-at-home order there. It applies just as much at a recreational property in HKPR as it does to a residence in Toronto or another part of the GTA. It's just as if you were home. And so if you are staying at a secondary property that you own, the stay-at-home order is still in effect. Please do not put other people at risk when you travel, and when you travel home, do the same thing – straight home, please."

Vaccinations underway, beginning in area long-term care homes

Last week, the health unit received the first 700 doses of the vaccine and began administering them to residents at long-term care homes including Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon, which was the site of an outbreak last spring that resulted in 29 deaths due to COVID-19.

"First of all it's the right thing to do, because these are the most vulnerable people, as I mentioned last week, up to 40 per cent I think of long-term care homes were in outbreak, we've got to stop these outbreaks to keep these elderly people, vulnerable people protected," said Gemmill. "That's where we've started and that's also what the province of Ontario has directed us to do."

Gemmill noted he had heard a federal minister say that morning that by the end of September, everyone who wants a vaccine will have had it, and Gemmill said he hopes everyone can be vaccinated even sooner than that. He said the local health unit had submitted their plan to the Ministry of Health, and was making mass immunization a priority to ensure everyone who wants a vaccine can get it in the safest and most fair way possible, with long-term care residents and healthcare workers receiving the vaccination first.

"This vaccine is safe, the vaccine is effective, the clinical trials have been conducted on tens of thousands of people, millions since licensing have already received it, we're not hearing that there are safety problems with this vaccine, that are generalized," he said. "I really want to assure people, if that's your worry, you needn't worry. It was fast, it was remarkably fast, it was blisteringly fast to get a vaccine developed, but they were able to piggyback it on a technology that had been

developed for other purposes, and it just worked."

The vaccine is not yet licensed for children or adolescents under the age of 18, but Gemmill said vaccine manufacturers have begun trials for children.

"Clearly as parents we care about our children more than we care about ourselves," he said. "I think people are going to be very happy to have a vaccine for children when it's licensed. For sure by this time next year. That will give parents as well a lot less worry about sending their kids to school - the risk [of kids at school] is not high as I mentioned last week, you're not seeing outbreaks or serious situations coming in to schools - but parents will just feel better. And the other thing is, I can't wait to immunize the teachers as well, because they're going in to situations

as well with lots and lots of young people, they are accepting exposure, and we need to look after them as well."

Provincial numbers have decreased during lock-down

Last week, 21,478 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Ontario, down from a Jan. 11 peak of 30,632, two weeks into the province's lock-down.

"When winter comes, this virus becomes more prevalent because it likes the winter-time and it spreads more easily, so it's like somebody turned on the virus hose," said Gemmill. "We've got our thumb over the end and we're trying to keep that in and I

see PROTESTS page 12

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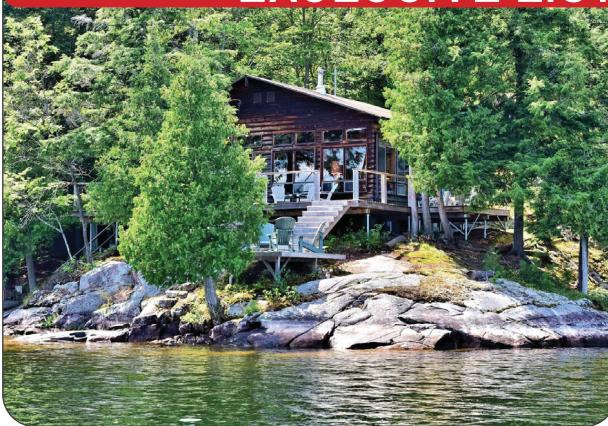
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Protests short-sighted, MOH says

from page 11

think those restrictions, which is our thumb on the end of the hose, is doing something ... But I certainly don't want to live like this for the next five years. I can't wait until we can get back to normal. So the purpose of these restrictions, keeping our thumb on the hose is to keep the numbers down, which ... it's working and doing ... keeping people unaffected and get the vaccine into them before they have an exposure."

Gemmill said it is essential to keep numbers down to protect the most number of people possible.

"It demonstrates the restrictions work, but the restrictions, they'll only work as long as our thumb is on that hose, once you release it, we could be in big trouble again, so the more definitive intervention to protect everybody with this one is a safe and effective vaccine."

Anti-lockdown protests 'short-sighted'

When Gemmill was asked to comment on anti-lockdown protests occurring in front of Victoria Hall in Cobourg, he said that

while he understood lockdowns are frustrating, he said what the protestors, many of them unmasked, were doing was "short-sighted," and said "I just don't think people are thinking this through." He noted again his parents' experience of living through the Second World War, and said that in critical times it was essential to pull together rather than apart.

"It's all about keeping that thumb on the hose so we don't have more outbreaks in long-term care, we don't have more hospitalizations," he said. "I'm really, I'm begging people who are really questioning the value of these measures, they're not there to be mean and they're not there to be ridiculous, they're there for a very good purpose. And I would be the first one to say I can't wait until we can lift them. It's not going to be right away either, but I can't wait until we can lift these restrictions so we can all get back to normal. I would really like everyone to do their part so we can keep this under control. now that we've got this vaccine, we've started already, it's not going to be long. It's going to be weeks, but it's not going to be five years like it was with the pandemic of 1918, where people were still being exposed and dying from the Spanish flu."



Curbside book check-out

A person passes the entrance to the Minden library on Wednesday, Jan. 28. All Haliburton County Public Library branches are offering curbside service during operating hours, which started on Dec. 26 when the provincial lockdown began. See <http://bit.ly/hcpl-hours> for hours and instructions on curbside services. /DARREN LUM Staff

HHHS facing deficit as end of fiscal year nears

by MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton Highlands Health Service [HHHS] is currently operating with a deficit of around \$442,000 as the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt.

HHHS board member David O'Brien, who sits on the organization's finance committee, informed the rest of the board last Thursday [Jan. 28] that around \$258,000 of that total comes from lost revenues as a result of COVID-19 service closures, with an additional \$184,000 related to additional staffing costs to cover overtime and recruitment drives during the pandemic.

While O'Brien painted something of a bleak picture, the local health service's finances are actually looking a lot better than they were a few short weeks ago.

"While this continues to be a challenging year with ongoing pressures due to the pandemic... we now have a more consistent cash flow with COVID-19 related expenses," O'Brien said. "We were six months behind [on our funding], but we have now received money that covers us until the end of September [in 2020]. That brings us to three months behind. It's still not great, but it's better than where we were."

O'Brien noted HHHS had also received money to cover lost revenues at its long-term care sites up to the end of 2020.

He anticipates the organization will still be in a deficit position by the end of the fiscal year, coming up on March 31. Still, O'Brien says he and the rest of the finance committee will advocate for more funding over the coming weeks.

"We're going to continue to work with our funding partners... to ensure we get the funding we feel we are missing with respect to revenue losses," O'Brien said.

Local disease activity

Dr. Steve Ferracuti, interim co-chief of staff at HHHS noted that while provincial numbers for COVID-19 have steadily decreased over the past week, we were still experiencing "some degree of local activity" in Haliburton.

He pointed to a recent report put together by Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS, that sheds some light on the positivity rate of COVID-19 tests conducted in Haliburton County. Since the onset of the pandemic last March the Haliburton,

Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit has reported positive COVID-19 cases based on far-reaching geographical boundaries, identifying individuals as being from Haliburton County, Northumberland County or the City of Kawartha Lakes. Only residents whose permanent address is listed within those three regional municipalities is presently being reported by the HKPR unit.

This means that any visitor or temporary resident of the county – mainly cottagers whose primary home lies outside of our health region – who test positive for COVID-19 are reported in their home municipality.

In an attempt to provide more clear data, staff at Haliburton's assessment centre are now willing to provide a COVID-19 positivity rate for all people tested locally. For the period between Jan. 11 and Jan. 22, the positivity rate was 3.5 per cent, with an average of 169 tests being completed each week. During that period the HKPR unit reported a total of three new cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County.

Plummer said it was important to note that the positivity rate still may not represent all positive COVID-19 cases in our community, but only those who are identified through testing at the local assessment centre.

In her later report to the board Plummer noted the county had seen a total of 22 COVID-19 cases between Dec. 10 and Jan. 28 – which represents an 85 per cent increase in the total number of cases since the onset of the pandemic in March. Haliburton County has seen a total of 48 cases of COVID-19.

Ferracuti noted the hospital site in Haliburton opened up new bed space on Monday [Feb. 1] to house any patients redirected to the community from GTA-area hospitals experiencing surges in ER visits and admissions.

Successful foundation campaign

The 'Believe in the Magic of Giving' campaign launched by the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation over the holidays helped to bring in \$136,400 for the local health unit.

Lisa Tompkins, executive director of the foundation, said the money would help to pay for a portable digital x-ray machine for HHHS' Haliburton site.

"I want to acknowledge the over 830 donors who contributed... As always, we're so appreciative of the generosity shown by our community," Tompkins said.

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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 13

Need for greater broadband service dominates 2021 ROMA discussions

by MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A need for further investment in broadband internet services, improvements to long-term care and issues surrounding blue-green algae in local lakes were some of Haliburton County warden Liz Danielssen's key takeaways from last week's virtual Rural Ontario Municipalities Association [ROMA] conference.

The event was very well attended, Danielssen claimed, with around 1,100 participants from across Ontario. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the event took place exclusively on Zoom from Jan. 24 to 26.

While the changed format drastically impacted Danielssen's ability to network with representatives from other municipalities, she was a big fan of the way the different minister delegations were set up.

"I think they did a really good job of the transition from in-person to virtual. Everybody still had opportunities to meet with the ministers to have their delegations as usual. It was interesting – in a Zoom call you're seeing faces close up, so you got a better sense for how people are reacting to the information you're giving them," Danielssen stated. "It seemed, strangely enough, like there was more openness. More willingness to listen. It really was a different experience."

Danielsen juggled three different hats throughout the event – as county warden, deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, and as vice-chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus.

While most of the discussions Danielsen was involved in could, in some way, be tied to all three roles, there was one topic in particular that was a recurring theme throughout the event.

Broadband internet has long been an issue for rural communities across Ontario. This past November, Ontario Premier Doug Ford held a media event in Minden to announce the provincial government would be investing \$1 billion over the next six years to improve internet and cell service in communities just like Haliburton.

One of the first initiatives to be funded, Danielsen says, is the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project. She indicated work on that project, which centres on improvements to cell service in some of the province's most remote areas, will begin this spring.

Following further discussions at ROMA, she expects there to be some additional provincial funding announcements in the near future.

"There's a lot of discussion about the best direction to take – whether to support the big service providers, or smaller service providers. We're just interested in trying to get the best coverage in rural Ontario and Haliburton County," Danielsen

said.

She added, "Broadband, and more specifically the necessity for broadband, was actually the theme of the conference overall... There was a lot of emphasis placed on working together with different levels of government and doing whatever we can to support the process to get broadband in place."

The improvements being talked about focus on the installation of fibre-optic lines in some rural hubs and boosts to cable and DSL services. Other more forward-thinking ideas, such as satellite delivery, may still be a few years out for local residents, Danielsen believes.

"The unfortunate part about these improvements is, no matter what we hear, it all takes time. We've heard presentations about satellite delivery, and other special projects that have gone ahead in small communities. But by the time you put out an RFP, and you go through that process and work begins, it seems like we're always looking at 2023 or beyond, and right now we just can't afford to wait that long," Danielsen said. "When you look at the problems that, for instance, the ones our kids are having with online schooling. It's just impossible right now for some families."

"I'm just not sure how we're going to fill that gap soon enough," Danielsen admitted.

There was a fruitful discussion with Merrilee Fullerton, Ontario's minister of long-term care, talking about the new systems and processes being installed in many facilities across eastern Ontario, Danielsen said, while she also held talks with environment minister Jeff Yurek about issues surrounding blue-green algae.

"Blue-green algae is a huge concern for us in Haliburton County, because there's still a lot of people who draw their water from our lakes. And if a lake has been contaminated, the water can be toxic," Danielsen said. "When someone spots, or reports a bloom, right now we have a process where someone will come in and test the water, but then there can be as much as a two-week delay for results. The big thing is, there seems to be some question about who is responsible for doing the notification [and reporting algae blooms], so we wanted to bring that to the minister's attention."

Yurek, Danielsen says, was "a bit taken aback" to hear it can take two weeks for test results to be returned to the community.

More municipal funding

Elsewhere, it was revealed that Haliburton County and its lower-tier municipalities would collectively receive about \$645,000 in further infrastructure funding through the province's Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

Premier Doug Ford announced \$200 million in new OCIF

money for Ontario's rural municipalities during the ROMA conference.

The program works on a population-based formula. The County of Haliburton will receive nearly \$285,000, Dysart et al nearly \$160,000, Minden Hills just over \$102,000 and Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East each \$50,000.

"Investing in local infrastructure projects that help strengthen our communities and support Ontario's long-term economic recovery is important to help get shovels in the ground on important community projects," Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott said in a recent media release.



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Taking steps to friendly fitness

Minden residents Shirley Howe, left, and Barbara Ballantyne walk down Bobcaygeon Road on Wednesday, Jan. 27 for their daily walk through the neighbourhood close to their homes. The friends said their daily walks are usually 30 minutes in length./DARREN LUM Staff

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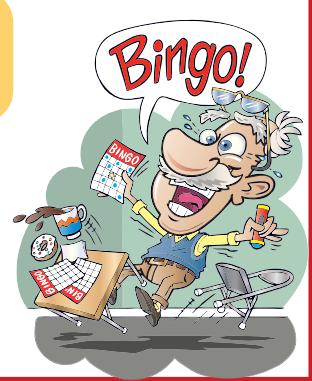
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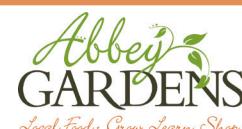
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This is a full time, year round position, working directly with the Chef.

For full job description please go to <https://abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs>.

Applications can be submitted via email to heather@abbeygardens.ca

Deadline for applications: Feb. 15, 2021

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Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Mental Health and Addictions Clinician (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the YWH Manager, working within the context of a multidisciplinary team, the Clinician will provide therapeutic interventions and addiction/harm reduction supports to youth, ages 12-25, dealing with addictions and substance use, based on evidenced-based practices. Using a client-centered approach, the Clinician will conduct mental health assessments and provide therapeutic supports and/or interventions to youth, including but not limited to solution-focused narrative therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, and motivational interviewing. This can include a whole spectrum of supports and services from referrals with the hub, to external providers, and involve direct support and treatment from harm reduction to withdrawal support and relapse prevention services. Bachelor/Masters of Social Work, Psychology, or related degree, with a postgraduate certificate in Addictions and Mental Health, or an equivalent combination of work experience and education. Current Certificate of Registration with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW); or current registration with The College of Psychotherapy. Minimum 2 years' experience working in a related position preferred, ideally in a community-based setting. Valid First Aid & CPR certificate or willingness to obtain.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

Please visit www.pointintime.ca for a detailed job description.

Send resume by February 12, 2021 to:

Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager marys@pointintime.ca
or Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Peer Support Worker (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the Youth Wellness Hub Manager and alongside a coordinated service team, the Peer Support Worker will provide support to youth who access services and recreation at the Haliburton County Youth Hub. They will support and assist in creating a safe and accepting environment for youth (12-25) with a special emphasis on the LGBTQ, Indigenous youth and other marginalized community youth. Supports and services provided at the Youth Hub include, but are not limited to, mental health, addictions, employment, housing, primary care and outreach. Good communication/interpersonal skills, education or volunteer/work experience in social services or related field, knowledge of anti-oppression and inclusion including knowledge of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and creating positive spaces, knowledge of youth engagement principles and practice is an asset, knowledge of Haliburton community, community resources and the Youth Hub is an asset.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

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Send resume by February 12, 2021 to:

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or Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Care Coordinator (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the YWH Manager, working within the context of a multidisciplinary team, the Care Coordinator will, in collaboration with youth and their families, assess care needs, determine eligibility for services, and develop individual care and service plans and is passionate about making sure every stone is overturned in order to help youth get the service and supports they require. Membership, in good standing, with the applicable regulatory body: College of Psychotherapists of Ontario, Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. 2+ years of recent experience in community health or a related field. Knowledge of the health care delivery system and community resources.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

Please visit www.pointintime.ca for a detailed job description.

Send resume by February 12, 2021 to:

Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager marys@pointintime.ca
or Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
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Physiotherapist

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has an exciting, permanent opportunity available as a member of the Long Term Care home teams that serve a substantial area surrounding both Haliburton and Minden. HHHS includes LTC homes in both Minden (Hyland Crest) and Haliburton (Hyland Wood).

This casual physiotherapist will report to and work in collaboration with the LTC home, Directors of Care. The Physiotherapist helps our residents reach optimal function by developing, implementing and supporting established treatment programs. He supervises our Physiotherapy Aides and provides oversight to them, providing guidance and counseling on therapeutic issues. Changes or progressions in treatment are made based on ongoing assessments and evaluation.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful candidate will possess a degree/diploma in Physiotherapy and be registered with the Board of Directors of Physiotherapy to practice in Ontario. The preferred candidate will have working knowledge of rehabilitation, orthopedics, and neurology. Membership in the Canadian Physiotherapy Association is recommended. Current CPR certification is also a requirement. Two to four years of experience in Long Term Care and/or Acute Care settings is preferred.

SUBMIT APPLICATION AND RESUME TO: Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca
Fax: 705-457-4609

PLEASE QUOTE JOB NUMBER: 2021 - 05

Haliburton Highlands Health Services thanks all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are contacted by HHHS regarding a job opportunity or testing, please advise if you require accommodation. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially.



Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The Registered Nurse earns \$33.56 /hr - \$48.05/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. Recent experience is preferred.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.17/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a clients condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earn \$22.25- \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:

The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

The Caregiver Support Aide earns \$18.50/hr. S/he provides support to our PSW's in relation to specific activities of resident and patient daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. Assists our PSW's with dressing, meal service and nourishment, assists with personal grooming, changing linens etc. Registered graduate of grade 12 or equivalent maturity and experience, with a willingness to register in a PSW certificate program and complete it within three years.

Observers/screeners earn \$14.50/hr and work on an as needed basis in 4 hour, 8 hour, or 12 hour shifts depending on Patient/Resident needs. The Observer is an unregulated health care provider who is primarily responsibility for the close observation of patients whose behavior poses a risk to his/her safety or the safety of others. The Patients/Residents you are observing are often elderly people who are living with dementia or other conditions that impact their memory and judgment. As a Screener, you act as a greeter and screener at facility entrances in Minden and Haliburton locations, to ensure anyone who enters is well. Minimum Grade 11, or equivalent, from the Ministry of Education (Ontario) with a demonstrated working knowledge of spoken and written English and experience working in a health care setting, security, related social service, or educational field will be an asset.

There may be many who have worked related fields and training on site will provide the basics you require for a temporary role.

Interested: Submit you application and resume to:
Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca
Fax: 705-457-4609

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ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSPERSON

We require an energetic individual who can contribute to our Home & Cottage design department. The ideal candidate will have excellent verbal communication skills, knowledge in construction and building supplies, be proficient in AutoCAD and an organized multi-tasker.

If you are motivated and enthusiastic, please forward your resume to:

admin@haliburtonlumber.com

or mail to P.O. Box 534,
Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0

Only Successful applicants will be contacted

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is accepting applications
for the following position

YARD ATTENDANT / DRIVER POSITION

We require an energetic individual to assist in delivery of building supplies, customer service and material handling.

Applicants must possess strong communication skills and knowledge of building supplies.

The ideal candidate will have a class D drivers licence.

If you are organized and possess the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment, please forward your resume by email

admin@haliburtonlumber.com

Only successful applicants will be contacted

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Onondaga Camp, Minden,
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We are looking for Cleaners to care for our facilities by providing a high standard of cleaning and light maintenance duties. The goal is to keep all facilities in

a clean and orderly condition. Responsibilities are to clean and stock designated facility areas (disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning etc.), carry out heavy cleansing tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, stock and maintain supply rooms, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, knowledge of cleaning chemicals and supplies, familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets.

To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19.

Up to 40 hour work week Spring and Fall.
Up to 48 hour work week Summer (6 days).
Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept)
NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at matt@onondagacamp.com. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.

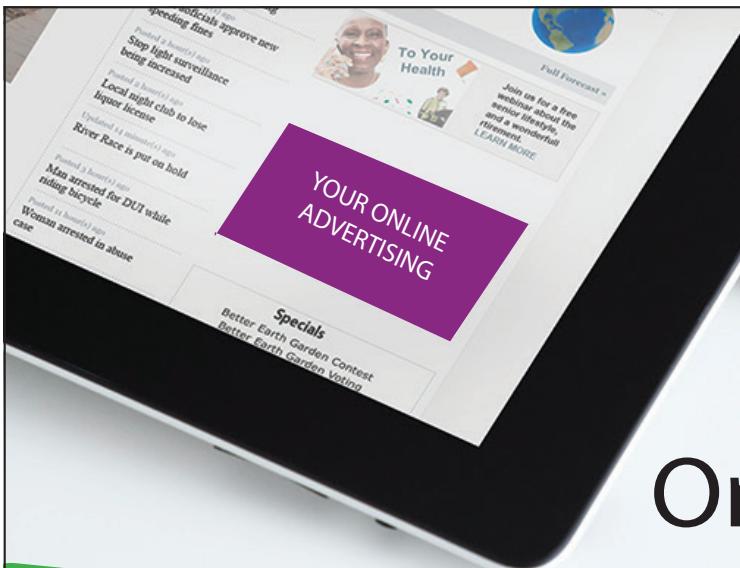
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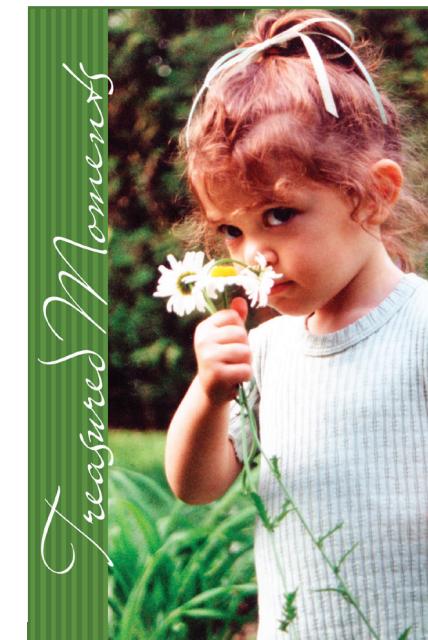
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In Loving Memory of
Marjorie Hamilton (nee Canam)

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at the age of 91.

Beloved wife of George Hamilton for 70 years. Dear mother of Rod (Marion), Marnie (the late Steve) Bowcott, and Don (Kathy). Loving grandmother of 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Predeceased by her brother and sister-in-law Mark and Anna Canam.

Marjorie attended nursing school in Fredericton, N.B., graduating in 1950, then married George and moved to Gogama, Ontario and began dedicating her life to her family, as well as volunteering as a nurse. The family would like to thank Dr. Norman Bottum and all the staff at Extendicare for all their support and compassionate care.

In keeping with Marjorie's wishes, cremation has taken place and private family interment will take place at St. Stephen's Cemetery, Boshkung at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Monday, January 26, 1998

\$13.7 million green light Infrastructure funding assures health projects

It was standing room only at Haliburton County council chamber last Wednesday, January 21. The occasion was the long anticipated announcement regarding funding for the Haliburton and Minden hospitals.

The official announcement was made, at the county council meeting, that the Canada/Ontario Works Program funding for Haliburton County health care facilities had been approved.

Victoria-Haliburton riding MPP Chris Hodgson and MP John O'Reilly and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Board Chair, Hugh Nichol, shared the spot light to make the official announcement. The funding approval was for \$13.7 million with one-third being provided by the federal and provincial levels of government and one-third by the community.

Chris Hodgson said Wednesday's announcement was one more step in the long process of improving health care in Haliburton County.

"It is the result of years of hard work by countless individuals," Hodgson said, adding that there are still a few more hurdles to overcome. "The province's goal is to ensure that Ontarians can have access to the health services they need through every stage of their lives," he said. "Today's announcement is helping us to fulfil this objective for the people of Haliburton, Minden and

the surrounding area."

"The Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works Program is designed to create jobs and improve the quality of life in large and small communities throughout this province. It gives me great pleasure to know that the project we announce today will ensure better health care services in this region," said John O'Reilly. "This will contribute to an increased sense of security for people who need long-term care and will create more than 200 short-term jobs in the con-

(more on page 4)

Dogs lead the charge into a busy winter weekend

The fourteenth annual Minden Techni-Cal Challenge is a go for this weekend. Organizers are confident that the weather will hold and that the community will be treated to days of exciting sled dog racing.

The trails are in excellent condition", director Stu Brandon said Saturday morning after completing a circuit of the four and eight mile loops. "Even this bit of rain we're getting today should help to firm up the trail."

The committee's optimism is tempered by the fact that the race has been postponed once this year due to less than ideal trail conditions and the speed with which weather patterns can reverse snow conditions. "At this point it is all system go," Race Governor Val Lougheed said. "The long range fore-

(more on page 5)



Fire breathing babysitter

Fortunately for eight-month-old Aylish Stromberg, TVO's Dudley the Dragon is a friendly critter. The prehistoric character visited Minden's CHACE Day Care on Wednesday to assist in the babysitting chores, while mom and dad took a minute to tour the facility. The open house was organized to give the community a chance to see what the program has to offer. This was one of a number of appearances Dudley made throughout the county last week.

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Haliburton County Council!

The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to thank the Haliburton County Council for taking the initiative to redirect the proposed shoreline bylaw to an independent third party to review and oversee. We look forward to being part of the solution!

Lakefront Property Owners,

The Haliburton County Home Builders Association has spent the last few weeks bringing forward a few facts regarding the proposed Shoreline By-law that the County of Haliburton is attempting to implement. The goal of our media campaign is to bring awareness of the By-law to the waterfront property owners in the County.

The HCHBA is urging you to contact your municipal elected officials, Lake Association Executive as well as your M.P. and M.P.P. to voice your concerns and to ask questions. We also encourage you to visit the HCHBA website (www.hchba.ca/resources) where we have posted information relating to the proposed Shoreline Preservation By-law. We ask you to speak to your neighbours about their thoughts and we encourage you to write our local newspapers with your concerns. We at HCHBA hope the independent company that County Council engages to help shape the shoreline by-law will consider these points as they research and prepare a document for County Council:

The 30-metre setback from high-water mark is problematic. The high-water mark can be hard to identify and with the constant fluctuations within our local lakes it can be ever changing due to the erosion that these fluctuations cause. A more reasonable setback (5 metres) with high quality vegetation required for all lakefront properties would be a great start.

The process of understanding what projects require a permit and which ones do not needs to be clear, concise and easy for the homeowner or contractor to understand. The Site Alteration Plan as it is currently written is far too extensive and needs to be simplified; both for waterfront property owners and contractors.

The County of Haliburton needs to make a commitment to invest time and resources towards conducting their own independent research into other factors that could lead to the potential deterioration in the health of our local water bodies. This research needs to be a long term investment; not a program that runs for only a few years.

If you have any questions, we at the HCHBA recommend that you write, email, or call your municipal elected officials with your comments or concerns. The Draft Bylaw and Questions and Answers can be found on our website under 'Resources' at www.hchba.ca



Haliburton County
Home Builders Association
www.hchba.ca

#Building with the Environment in Mind